

Message Text

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10
ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 USIA-06 VO-03 INSE-00 /020 W
----- 129543
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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1782

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, HK, ECON (YOUNG, C.K.)
SUBJECT: MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT ON THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

REF: HONG KONG 9247

DURING AN AUGUST 26 CALL ON TA KUNG PAO PUBLISHER FEI I-MIN, HE INFORMED CONGENOFFS THAT, AFTER DISCUSSING THE PROPOSED ECONOMIC GRANT FOR C.K. YOUNG WITH VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE NEWSPAPER'S STAFF, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO DECLINE THIS YEAR. FEI EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE OFFER BUT EXPLAINED THAT THE FALL WOULD BE AN EXTREMELY BUSY PERIOD FOR THE NEWSPAPER'S STAFF. HE MENTIONED THAT THE TA KUNG PAO WOULD BE CONVERTING TO AN ENTIRELY NEW OFFSET PRINTING SYSTEM AND THAT A NUMBER OF REPORTERS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO COVER THE FALL CANTON FAIR. FEI WAS AT PAINS TO PUT THE MATTER IN TERMS OF A "POSTPONEMENT" RATHER THAN A REFUSAL AND SUGGESTED THAT WE COULD DISCUSS A SIMILAR PROJECT FOR NEXT YEAR AT A LATER DATE. HE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT ANY FUTURE GRANT NOT BE LIMITED STRICTLY TO THE FIELD OF ECONOMICS AND COVER A NUMBER OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL AREAS AS WELL. CONGENOFF TENTATIVELY AGREED TO DISCUSS A POSSIBLE JOURNALIST GRANT SOMETIME BEFORE PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR ARE DRAWN UP. HE EXPLAINED THAT WE HAD PROPOSED MR. YOUNG LARGELY BECAUSE HE WAS FAIRLY WELL KNOWN TO US BUT RECOMMENDED THAT IF FEI HAD OTHER POSSIBLE CANDIDATES THAT HE MIGHT RAISE THEM WITH US PRIOR TO REACHING A DECISION ON A POSSIBLE GRANT NEXT YEAR. FEI AGREED AND SUGGESTED THAT THE MATTER BE CONSIDERED AGAIN SOME TIME

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EARLY NEXT YEAR. HONG KONG WILL NOT, THEREFORE, WISH TO

HOLD THE SLOT FOR THIS GRANT ANY LONGER. THE DEPARTMENT'S
COOPERATION HAS BEEN APPRECIATED.
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